

THE LIBERATOR

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE LIBERAL ARTS COUNCIL
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN | NOVEMBER 26, 2012 | ISSUE 6



CHANGING THE WORLD ONE COMMUNITY AT A TIME

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

NOVEMBER 2012

FEATURES

- 04** Student Spotlight
Rachel Kaser
- 07** Oh the Places You'll Go!
LAC New Member Project
- 19** Professor Spotlight:
Julie Hardwick
- 03** Small Departments on
Chopping Block
- 15** A Split Nation
Bipartisanship Decides Election
- 16** Campus updates

OPINION

Black Friday
Consumer Nation

Gifting Survival Guide

The Slacker :
Body Politics

ENTERTAINMENT

You Know It's Exams When

Mark Your Calendar:
Texas Performing Arts

At the Movies
Books Translated to Film



All Photos by Madhu Singh



On the Cover

Student leaders photographed
by Madhu Singh

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

When opening up the election issue, I was so excited to see what wonderful insight y'all would bring. But, lo and behold, my beloved LIBERATOR had succumb to stereotypes and published an article on the clothing choices of the first ladies. Articles like these always bring me to an interview with Hillary Clinton. When asked what designers she preferred, she responded with "What designers of clothes? Would you ask a man that question?". No, Hillary, we would probably not. I was saddened to see that the article was published, and hope that we can continue to represent women as smart and worthwhile human beings whose thoughts go beyond their clothing choices. That aside, I loved the issue as a whole, particularly the inspiring piece by Ali Breland. And of course, the Election Day Drinking Game made me laugh. Who said politics can't be fun?

■ ANONYMOUS

ON THE COVER **10-13** | **LONGHORN SPIRIT RESHAPES COMMUNITY**

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Love it? Hate it? Let us know! Letters to the editor reviewing articles from this issue will be printed in the next edition of *THE LIBERATOR*.

THE LIBERATOR is the official publication of The Liberal Arts Council. As a liberal arts-focused news magazine, we aim to keep students connected to the university through updates on legislation, campus affairs and student life. All questions, comments and concerns can be directed to THE LIBERATOR at:

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ON THE CHOPPING BLOCK

BUDGET CUTS AND WHO SHOULD BE WORRIED

In a perfect world, students would pay less tuition, the state would continue to fund the university, donors would give money in increasing increments, and A&M would finally accept the fact that we are way cooler than them. As much as I hate to burst anyone's bubble, we do not live in a perfect world. Last year, the state forced the University of Texas to cut 5% of their budget and freeze tuition, and the financial gap simply cannot be supplemented with private money, so now the University is forced to hold up a mirror and decide what is truly important.

The Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, Randy Diehl, sent an email to faculty summarizing the issues the University faces and what is going to be done, "...we will always strive to minimize the impact of reductions on core educational and research missions and be strategic in the overall allocations of resources."

The cuts have to come from somewhere, though, and the University does not believe in across-the-board cuts, meaning certain departments could be hit harder than others. An aura of competition surrounds the budget reductions; departments that are doing well and functioning efficiently will receive fewer cuts than a department with extraneous resources. This puts a pressure on departments to remain competitive with each other, no matter the size.

Sr. Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Richard Flores, sums it up perfectly, "You

don't create an incentive to get better by giving everyone the same thing."

This system seems to give an unfair advantage to bigger departments. They have more people and can produce more research, in addition to having more students taking the classes, but small departments shouldn't worry. The college understands the challenges faced by smaller departments and tries to implement fair and reasonable ways to compare the two, such as counting the semester credit hours offered, and looking at the quality of research being produced.

The less popular language departments are generally the smallest and seem to be most in danger of cuts. In 2009, the Vietnamese department was cut completely in response to both financial restrictions and a simple lack of interest. Students were in an uproar, and several petitions were signed to get the department back. Two years ago, the school decided to put it on a trial-run to see what real student interest was, and what they found was not encouraging. The courses were offered over the summer, but they barely met. For two summers the department was tested, but ultimately the lack of interest was overpowering and it was cut again from the schedule. Even the demographic that was protesting the drop wasn't signing up for the classes they said they wanted.

"Sometimes it's very easy to protest oh they're taking away the language, but then who's really taking the language?" Flores explains.

Smaller departments are not always victimized, however. The International Relations and Global Studies major started slowly in 2008, but after an increase in publicity efforts the major exploded and now boasts over 800 students. To put that into context, there were only 341 people in the entire Architecture College in 2011. If

An aura of competition surrounds the budget reductions; departments that are doing well and functioning efficiently will receive fewer cuts than a department with extraneous resources.

the IRG department had been cut earlier according to its size, they probably wouldn't have reached their current level of acclaim. Small departments really have nothing to worry about, so long as they are running efficiently and keeping up to date on the latest and most ground breaking research. No pressure. Then again, that can go for all departments within the College of Liberal Arts. Departments that are failing to attract students or have unnecessarily high teacher to student ratios are the ones that need to be concerned. The University is doing their

best to make cuts in ways that will not impede learning at UT. Lecturers have been given extra incentive, through monetary compensation and better benefits, to retire early and those positions that become vacant are often times not being filled. Staff members have been subject to cuts of the same nature; once an employee leaves, they are not replaced. The school is also relying on merit pay in lieu of permanent raises, meaning lecturers receive one-time bonuses instead of increases over the long-term. Probably one of the most impactful changes is the reduction in offered summer school classes, but even that cut is minimally invasive because many classes were forced to cancel anyways due to the inability to meet enrollment.

Flores underlines the gravity of the situation, "...we understand that there may be implications for courses in some departments, but the state can't cut our budget and not allow us to raise tuition and pretend like it's not going to have an effect." Ultimately, the University of Texas is fighting hard to remain a leader in research and retain their reputation of excellence, despite the adversity supplied by our wonderful friends in the Capitol. As long as the departments are running efficiently, they should be fine. Small departments have no more need to worry than their bigger counterparts, but all should keep in mind that, in these tough times, it is far better to be safe than sorry.

■ PATTY SANGER

MAJORS ADDED

- African and African Diaspora Studies (2010)
- Asian Cultures & Languages - Korean (2012)
- Asian Cultures & Languages - Tamil (2008)
- Asian Studies - East Asia (Taiwan) (2010)
- Geographical Sciences (2012)
- International Relations + Global Studies (2008)
- Middle Eastern Languages & Cultures (2012)
- Portuguese - Spanish & Portuguese (2010)

MAJORS DROPPED

- Czech Language & Culture (2012)
- African & African American Studies (2010)
- Greek (2012)
- Hebrew Language & Literature (2012)
- Russian Language & Culture (2012)
- Turkish Language & Literature (2012)

"We will always strive to minimize the impact of reductions on core educations and research missions and be strategic in the overall allocation of resources"

- Randy Diehl

RACHEL KASER



AGE: 21 MAJOR: English WHY SHE STANDS OUT: Her work with Texas Secular Humanists and the Masterpiece Society

Sometimes you just need to have a quality conversation. Be it about James Bond, video games or Shakespeare, English major Rachel Kaser is your girl.

"[Rachel] is unique because she can talk to people about a wide range of different topics because she is so intellectual," friend Shelby Auxier said. "Some of my best memories of Rachel are from just a few of us in the club hanging out and chatting about what books and movies we love and what video games we like."

Homeschooled from an early age, Kaser grew up appreciating literature more than most kids. Now a senior, for two years she first attended Central Texas College, a community college in her hometown of Killeen, when she was 17.

"It wasn't a huge stretch [coming from homeschooling to college in regards to] the material," Kaser said. "Especially with English because my parents are very passionate about literature, so I was into that already. It started with Shakespeare when I was 12. I read all the plays before I got to college so I've written papers on most of them."

Next spring Kaser will be in the Shakespeare at Winedale class in which students study and give three performances of a play in a converted nineteenth-century barn that acts as a theater in Winedale, near the small rural town of Round Top, Fayette County, Texas.

Beyond loving Shakespeare, Kaser recently joined the English council where she helps plan socials and events and design their t-shirt, and has been a member of The Masterpiece Society and the Texas Secular Humanists for a couple of years.

"We model ourselves for casual readers who don't have time to read very often," Kaser said of The Masterpiece Society. "[It's for students] like engineers or computer science majors who like reading casually but don't really have time to take English electives... so we give them short stories and short novels to read."

Kaser is currently vice president of the club and says they've recently read books like *The Maltese Falcon* by Dashiell Hammett and *A Sound of Thunder* by Ray Bradbury.

"We meet once every other week to talk about the stories we've read, and on alternating weeks we watch movie versions," she said.

The other organization she is involved with, the Texas Secular Humanists, is a secular service organization for which Kaser is

currently the secretary. The club volunteers around Austin and raises money for various causes. Recently they have been holding bake sales for Austin Children's Shelter Christmas Campaign.

"Every now and then we discuss beliefs but we try not to make it all about that," she said. "We also like to host speakers as part of raising awareness for human rights. We did a talk with Professor Jonathan Dancy about morality and ethics which I thought was very interesting."

Kaser is also a self-proclaimed fan of "dissecting pop-culture." Most recently she started a blog to discuss the Bond series in celebration of the new Bond movie, *Skyfall*.

"I've always loved Bond," she said. "I've read the Bond novels, I've seen the films, I know all about Ian Fleming [author of the spy novels], so it was just one of those things. I thought 'I need a hook,' so when I heard Adele's song I thought, 'that's it! I'll write about Bond songs.'"

Up to Live and Let Die, the eighth spy film in the series, Kaser plans to dissect each and every theme song of the 23 Bond films, including *Skyfall*.

"Writing excellent and interesting essays on comics, video games, and James Bond theme songs, she makes it all look easy," boyfriend Noah Moss said. "She's just a natural at writing, capable of creating deep and captivating pieces. Both her and I see her as a novelist, but I see her as being a marvelous novelist... One day you will be buying her stories at the local bookstore."

Kaser admits however, that it takes a good amount of money to become a full time author. She is currently gaining experience as a copy editor at The Daily Texan with hopes it will help lead to a full time job directly after college. Eventually, she hopes to become a mystery novelist.

"The reason I choose to write is because I believe writers are the mouthpieces of our culture," Kaser said. "Writers are also in the middle of a Neo-Renaissance. With new media; including online media, video games, new trends in film and television; we have new methods of storytelling, and thus new stories to tell. I'm trying to be a Renaissance writer... I also want to look to the best that came before. Just as in the Italian Renaissance, we can look to the best of everything for our inspiration. That's an incredible privilege!"

■ RACHEL MARINO

YOU KNOW IT'S

EXAM TIME

WHEN

Now that everyone has stashed their rubber presidential masks and finally trashed the extra 3 Musketeers minis, Halloween's reject friend-by-association, we can take a cue from what Macy's has been up to since July—ringing in the holiday season. I'm the first one to plunge head first into a Thanksgiving countdown and Christmas calendar-crossing. Light the pumpkin spice and cinnamon apple candles! Stick up a strong finger to Mother Nature and wear sweaters despite 89° weather! Heck, rationalize spending \$3.65 for some glorified hot chocolate because they had the insight to serve it up right—with peppermint and in a festive cup! There are just a few small things standing in the way of your shameless seasonal giddiness...exams.

Be cautious, because before you can tell mom what you expect on the table upon your homecoming, you have to face a monsoon of midterms. You may have made it through rounds one, even two, of tests and term papers, but somewhere between catching up on sleep and watching a full television series on DVD you forgot you're not done yet. Not only do you have some lingering projects, but you have to tackle your finals before you can begin to imagine the classes you settled on for next semester.

Our campus cafés usually keep pretty busy, but during finals season, the lines congest the

place with junkies needing their fix. Nothing converts non-coffee connoisseurs quicker than three looming essay/short-answer/multi-choice combos in two days. Luckily, our campus is caffeine stockpiled with different vendors right on the 40 Acres. For those who forget that there are sizes besides "tall" or "grande" you can find that oh-so-familiar green siren in the Union, Jester Mall, SAC, football stadium, or down a block on 24th Street. Your choices for studying sustenance don't end there though; competition is the name of the game, so the Drag also has Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf, Einstein's Bros. Bagels, and Café Medici. If you don't have the wherewithal to venture too far from whatever outlet you managed to stake as your own for the week, Prufrock's is on the first floor of the PCL, and a robotic barista can hook you up in the FAC with the new Briggo automatic coffee system. Now that you've procrastinated long enough in lines for coffee, it's time to find a spot to hunker down for the long haul.

If you're connected to Student Government or the Senate of College Councils, it's pretty common knowledge that the PCL is now open 24 hours a day, 5 days a week (ahh, that's what all those 24/5 t-shirts mean!) Though this point has been a tad belabored in different student organizations on campus, this new policy is pretty great. The Thor-Wills ticket for the student body presidential slate campaigned on this promise, and as the test pressure increases, it's a provision students can be grateful for. In the past, the PCL had extended hours around finals time, but now that campus' main library is always open all night, so you're free to move on in. The UT library system has also had an exam-time program, *Crunch Time*, where they have subject specialists on hand to help with the

sprint to the end. They market the initiative to help with papers, exams, and research offering online chat assistance, e-mail provisions, and calling station. The website also offers quick links to help with citations, copyright-free images, and primary sources. So, though you may be spending more time in the library than in your own room in the coming month, please try to still shower.

It's easy to understand how being over-caffeinated and under-rested makes for a stressful situation, and the schedule of exams doesn't allow you to resort to your typical weekend frivolity to ease the tension. When stress feels overwhelming and you're on the brink of insanity, it's sometimes best to put the latte down, close the textbook, and walk away from the cubicle. The university's MindBody Lab is located on the fifth floor of the Student Services Building as a service for managing stress from the Counseling and Mental Health Center. This environment is designed to help students improve their emotional and physical health through guided exercises such as breathing routines and meditation. The lab is open Monday—Friday from 8:00am to 4:00pm, and you don't even need to schedule an appointment. You'll find plush leather chairs and headphones awaiting you, so kick your feet up, and grab a cat nap, knowing that at the end of this process you can sleep your winter vacation away.

Halloween may be long over by now, but with exams upon us, everyone is just starting to look like zombies. Remember to keep yourself energized, claim your favorite study spot early, and take the time to chill out amidst the chaos. Buckle up, it's going to be a bumpy ride, but we're almost there!

■ CASSIE MANEEN
PHOTO FROM CREATIVE COMMONS

PRO-TIPS TO PREVENT A FREAK OUT

IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW, THE PCL IS NOW OPEN FOR 24 HOURS A DAY, 5 DAYS A WEEK

WHEN STARBUCKS IS FULL OF FRESHMEN, GET YOUR FIX AT

- EINSTEIN BROS. BAGELS
- COFFEE BEAN & TEA LEAF
- CAFE MEDICI
- PRUFROCK'S @ PCL
- BRIGGO ROBOT @ FAC

THE LIBRARIES HAVE SUBJECT SPECIALISTS TO HELP WITH LAST MINUTE PAPER- WRITING/STUDYING CRISES

IF YOU'RE ALREADY STRESSED AND IT'S TOO MUCH, GO TO THE MINDBODY LAB ON THE 5TH FLOOR @ SSB

TEXAS PERFORMING ARTS

A performance can be great in so many ways, but it's the audience that gives a performance its splendor, its existence. It's the applause that brings people from different walks of life together; allowing them to share the worthwhile experience of the world the performance creates. Although the performing arts have been a major part of cultures around the world, the arts have struggled to coexist in a continuously changing world. This quest to keep the performing arts as a major part of life can be seen at UT and, Hook 'Em Arts, the student voice for Texas Performing Arts (TPA), has been taking on this same quest.

Hook 'Em Arts is a student organization working toward making students aware of the many shows that come to UT through TPA. Students in Hook 'Em Arts choose performances that they think will interest the campus community. Felicia Fitzpatrick, a junior Theatre and Dance and African Diaspora studies major, believes that attending shows that TPA offers allows for a great

experience of something new.

"Attending these shows allows you to really engage with the performances that come here. Things like touring the Wicked set and getting to see how the show runs backstage are only a few of the things you get to experience when going to the shows offered by TPA," said Fitzpatrick.

The members of Hook 'Em Arts believe that it is important to engage people in the arts because they are so vital to campus culture. Lea Tott, another member majoring in Bassoon performance, had a lot to say about the importance of the performing arts on campus. According to her, "If you look back at history, the arts are what has survived and what defines each culture is its artistic output. We're trying to make sure it stays alive and that people are interested in it and know that it isn't all just typical classical music. TPA is cool because it has three different seasons- a concert season, Broadway season, and a performing arts season."

In efforts to publicize TPA, members believe that the true challenge lies in informing non-music students about TPA and the many shows it has to offer. "I think a lot of students also don't know what goes on in this

part of campus because we're right next to the stadium, which overshadows us and is far away from everything else so a lot of people just don't know about TPA," Tott added.

Although the Butler School has provided a great deal of donations for TPA, a majority of the funding from TPA comes from ticket sales versus the individual donations received by most performing arts organizations around the country. Hook 'Em Arts members want to change this and want to see people donating to TPA because they believe in the longevity of the arts.

The Outreach and Communications committee of Hook 'Em Arts has begun efforts to publicize in many unique ways. They have garnered student attention through flash mobs, passed out red roses to advertise for the Phantom of the Opera, and even orchestrated a photo contest for Regina Spektor tickets. Creativity has been key to their marketing in an attempt to boost recognition on campus. Sean Tecson, a

2nd year Theatre Studies major in the Outreach and Communications committee has also been working to create a series of Youtube videos to help students learn more about Hook 'Em Arts' role in TPA. Tecson emphasizes the wider community that TPA and Hook 'Em Arts builds for students interested in the performing arts. "Both Hook 'Em Arts and TPA at large not only give opportunities in experiencing the backstage side of performing arts but also immerses you into a larger community of students from a diverse array of majors. Hook 'Em Arts' role is to help students become aware of the many great things the university has to offer," he said.

During the spring, expect upcoming shows of Lion King to CIRCA, proving that the excitement at TPA never ends. At the end of a show, you not only bring home an experience, but you also play a part in reviving the arts in UT culture.

■ FARAH MITHANI



Sean Tecson of the Outreach and Communication committee within Hook 'Em Arts films a promotional video for the organization

spring preview

THE STRANGE UNDOING OF PRUDENCIA HART	1.16 1.19
DISNEY'S THE LION KING	1.16 2.10
EIGHTH BLACKBIRD	1.28 2.04
JOE LOVANO & DAVE DOUGLAS QUINTET: SOUND PRINTS	2.15
THE KNIGHTS WITH WU MAN, PIPA	2.19
JEREMY DENK, PIANO	2.27
MASTERS OF TRADITION	2.28
THE JOFFREY BALLET: RITE OF SPRING	3.05 3.06
TEATROCINEMA	3.21 3.23
DAFNIS PRIETO: SI O SI QUARTET	3.24
MERYL TANKARD'S THE ORACLE	4.06
DAWN UPSHAW, SOPRANO	4.07
MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET	4.09 4.14
MARIA SCHNEIDER WITH UT JAZZ ORCHESTRA	4.13
ALISON BALSOM, TRUMPET WITH THE SCOTTISH ENSEMBLE	4.16
TONY KUSHNER	4.22
CIRCA	4.27
PRISCILLA QUEEN OF THE DESERT	5.08 5.12



Each semester as the new members of LAC come in, they are tasked with planning and executing an event to help rally the Liberal Arts students and impact the college as a whole. This time around, the group of 30 new members worked hard to present: “Oh the Places You’ll Go!” a fair that represented the diversity of languages offered at UT, and showed how a language or area-specific degree can be applied in the real world.

In the past, the New Member Projects focused on alumni or research development, but the current new member class decided on a more global approach.

“The new members decided to focus on the international aspect because they believed the multiculturalism to be an integral characteristic of the CoLA,” freshman Aruj Rawal said. “By promoting the various languages within the college, LAC also promotes cultural awareness among UT students.”

The event emphasized how the Liberal Arts language requirement is not as inhibiting as many students like to think.

“Sometimes the language requirement can be tough for students to be excited about, but by exposing them to something new that they might turn out to be really interested in can facilitate learning about different cultures and open them up for new experiences,” senior Kelsey Thompson said.

The event offered an invaluable resource of information from area studies and language professors, as well as study abroad representatives and, of course, students experienced with the study abroad program. The professors spoke about the benefits of working with them and the career implications that came with studying their field.

“Those attending the new event will gain a first hand, personal account of how languages help within a career,” Rawal said. “In addition to understanding the applicability and benefits of a second language, students will also gain exposure to languages offered in the college, so that they can look at their options to complete the language requirement.”

For many students, studying abroad seems like an impossibility, but the representatives and fellow students helped bring that dream to a possible reality with useful information about scholarships and different options students can take to make traveling affordable.

“I [hope] that when students left our event, they had a better sense of the resources that surround them on this campus. UT is a world-renowned institution and hosting an event that shows off the university’s ability to support diversity is very important in our time as students,” sophomore Omar Gamboa said.

The event is not only about what students can personally gain from visiting different cultures, being a multicultural, connected society is become a fact of life.

“In an increasingly interconnected world, it has never been more important to be an informed and globally aware citizen,” freshman Anita Farsad said. “A Liberal Arts degree offers student the chance to learn about cultures and the world around them, so we want this event to serve as a catalyst to inspire students to actively pursue global awareness.”

The new members meant for the event to attract any student truly interested in taking their education to a new level, immersed in a completely different culture.

“Our goal is to attract all students, regardless of what year they are in,”

sophomore Amber Muhammad said. “Whether they are graduating this spring or they are in their first semester at UT, we want to showcase the opportunities available at UT in hopes that it will inspire students to go study abroad and get an unforgettable experience.”

Liberal Arts Council travel abroad fair brought together important information from travel packages to the farthest corners of Asia, to programs in Oxford University. The event also connected students to various non-profit organizations like the Peace Corps and the Inti Raymi Fund so they could take their travel abroad experience to a new level. Hopefully to those who visited, the fair had an impact that encouraged students to broaden their global perspective.

■ NATALIA NARANJO

- 1 DAVID “CHIMU” MCGRAIN OF THE INTI RAYMI FUND
- 2 STUDENTS REPRESENTING THEIR CULTURAL ORGANIZATION + ITS OPPORTUNITIES
- 3 MEMBERS OF LIBERAL ARTS COUNCIL HANDING OUT PASSPORTS FOR THE STUDENTS TO HAVE VARIOUS BOOTHS STAMP. WITH 3 STAMPS, THE STUDENTS COULD GET PIZZA OR A TACO
- 4 THE STUDY ABROAD OFFICE, SPONSORS OF THE EVENT

PHOTOS BY: MADHU SINGH



With Hollywood recently hitting writers block, many movies have been adaptations of books. Soon *The Great Gatsby*, *The Hobbit*, *The Life of Pi* and many others are scheduled to come to a theater near you. Normally, reviews about books translated to the silver screen come from obsessed fans, but what about this translation from the view of the critical eye of a Literature professor? This was my goal when I went into interview Professor Ashley Squires who specializes in 19th to early 20th century American Literature. Her perspective was that “film and literature are two different mediums. What is used to build suspense in a book is different in film. Some things just don’t work on screen.” This, we agreed, is why fans commonly become upset when directors and producers delete parts of books. Dr. Squires was particularly excited about the release of *The Hobbit* so much so that she exclaimed “this is the movie I’ve been waiting for since I was, like, ten!” So if a critically thinking professor can wrapped up in her emotions concerning a book, we are all allowed to go fan girl for the upcoming movies that are adaptations of books. ■ AISHA ALI



Image source: news.com.au

The Hobbit

If you can’t get enough of the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, we have good news. The same people are bringing you a new trilogy based on Tolkien’s prequel, *The Hobbit*. *The Hobbit*, for those who haven’t read the novel, involves the adventures of Bilbo Baggins, Frodo’s uncle, who joins a group of dwarves to help reclaim a stolen treasure from a dragon. The story also reveals how the infamous ring, which will be the driving force behind Bilbo’s nephew’s travels, came into his possession. Basically, in the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, the novel Bilbo is shown writing is this story, from when he was younger. Along with the same director, Peter Jackson, and sets, we can expect to see some familiar faces from the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy in *The Hobbit* as well. Ian McKellen will return as Gandalf to whisk Bilbo away on his adventure, similar to what he does for Frodo in the *Fellowship of the Ring*. Also Cate Blanchett, Christopher Lee and Andy Serkis will return as Galadriel, Saruman and Gollum, respectively. *The Hobbit* will be in theaters **December 14**.



Image source: DigitalSpy

Les Misérables

Les Misérables is based on the famous French novel by Victor Hugo, and features music composed by Claude-Michel Schönberg, who won a Tony for the Best Original Score for the musical in 1987. Set in early 19th Century France, the plot follows the struggles and ultimate redemption of Jean Valjean (Hugh Jackman), an ex-convict, while he attempts to evade Javert (Russell Crowe), a police inspector (and primary antagonist) constantly seeking to arrest him. Tom Hooper, winner of the 2011 Oscar for Best Director (*King’s Speech*), directed the film. His crew decided to take a brand new route in filming the musical numbers. As opposed to recording the soundtrack ahead of time and playing it back on set for the actors to lip sync to, the vocals were recorded live on set using a piano accompaniment that the actors could hear through an earpiece. The orchestra was added post-production. Keep an eye out for this star studded film as it gets closer to the holidays. *Les Misérables* will be in theaters **December 25**.



Image source: Aceshowbiz

On the Road

After making appearances at both the Cannes Film Festival and Sydney Film Festival, this long awaited movie is finally going to be available stateside. Kerouac’s classic novel, *On the Road*, is a semi-autobiographical record of Kerouac’s own travels in the U.S. The novel is generally considered to be a description of the beat generation, which, along with Kerouac, included household names like Allen Ginsberg. The primary characters are Sal (Sam Riley), who portrays Kerouac, and Dean Moriarty (Garrett Hedlund), based on Neal Cassady. Casting for *On the Road* began in 2007, but due to budget cuts, filming was held off until 2010. That casting occurred so early explains a little about why Kristen Stewart, criticized heavily for her lack of emotion and awkwardness in the *Twilight* series, was cast as the extremely passionate Marylou. Director Walter Salles, of *The Motorcycle Diaries*, picked her out after her performance in *Into the Wild*. Also appearing in the movie is Kirsten Dunst, Amy Adams and Viggo Mortenson. *On the Road* will be in some theaters **December 21**.

■ KELLY DEMOYA

BLACK FRIDAY

ANTI

ANTI VS PRO CONSUMERISM

■ ELIE WU

PRO

One of the many vital signs of a healthy economy is a mall that is packed with shoppers and brimming with transactions. The sounds of swiping credit cards and jingling coins create a national symphony that assures the American people that the economy has recovered and is improving. Come Black Friday, that symphony will drown out the naysayers of consumerism and jumpstart the holiday season with a bang.

There is no better day to purchase than on Black Friday when retailers slice their prices, leaving consumers with more in their wallet and much less guilt than if they were to purchase the same items on a regular day. Shopping on Black Friday when many people have the day to themselves is a practical and economic decision that should not be discouraged by anti-consumerists who

argue against the materialism that is supposedly bolstered by Black Friday. This particular day is not the problem—the problem, according to opponents, is the culture of extreme consumerism.

Yes, Americans buy a lot. But, everyone purchases and everyone needs to purchase to at best be happy and to at least survive. Food, clothing, and a home are all necessary items to consume and to be purchased. While buying necessities is not normally considered to be materialistic, doing so is indeed materialistic. After all, food, clothes, and homes are materials. Arguing against consumerism is arguing against a natural human urge to obtain things that are better and more efficient in their lives. The desire for things that are enhanced by technology is not just natural—it's logical. New items allow people in a technologically-charged

world to adapt and perform better in their careers and their personal lives.

Consuming new things, discarding them, and demanding better ones are what maintain healthy competition and innovation amongst companies that constantly invest in better technology to develop superior products in the future. Sure, buying something and then disliking it may be disappointing to an individual, but to an economy that purchase helps maintain its wellbeing.

Although hopping on the consumerist bandwagon on Black Friday is widely criticized among those who cannot rid their short-sightedness, it should nevertheless be widely done in the interest of the bigger economic system that will make everyone better off in the long run.

Prepare yourself for the annual flood of materialistic frenzy as Black Friday busts through the holiday season threshold, starting on November 23rd of this year. Despite the excitement surrounding this one day where retailers offer massive sales and promotions, Black Friday is not a real holiday—and for good reason.

Americans are notorious for living large and consuming just as much (if not more). Not only does Black Friday encourage the culture of consumerism, it amplifies the materialistic urges ingrained in every American citizen. From the time we have their first Happy Meal to when we purchase a house or a car, Americans are taught to spend, throw away, covet and spend again.

Our economy is based on consumerism; when times become tough and people are less willing to reach into their wallets, everyone is suddenly tossed into a state of panic. Why? Why is the American economy—the most important economic system in the world—wobbling on a platform of spending and consumption?

The idea itself is not comforting, and Black Friday further envelops the American people in a frenetic atmosphere that enkindles their mutual psychosis. Consider the people who stand outside an Apple store for hours, or those who spend a night—even several days in a row—just to purchase the latest overhyped gadget.

Not only is it ironic that Black Friday follows Thanksgiving Day, but it is a shame. Think about it: after celebrating our family, friends and the ideals of gratitude and humility, we plunge right into a shopping frenzy where we buy temporary gratification in the form of gizmos, toys, and clothes that will most likely end up in a landfill.

There is a sensible alternative to Black Friday that does not involve scurrying in a crowded mall with other pushy and anxious shoppers. Don't be a part of it. Yes, just stay home and enjoy Thanksgiving while it lasts; the celebration of graciousness does not have to end once the little hand hits twelve. Time with close family members and companions is far more valuable than any discount, especially in the modern era when stress levels reach astronomical heights.

Whereas Black Friday fans the fire of a nation-wide agitation that comes along with the holiday season, distancing oneself from the consumerist bandwagon is a sure way to savor gratefulness and to feel much better about what we have.

RE SHAPES COMMUNITY + WORLD

LONGHORN SPIRIT

Aside from first-rate academics, a strong football team and a vibrant culture bursting with burnt orange and merriment, the University of Texas is remarkable for its multitude of service organizations founded and led by students.

"If you want to change the world, you do that at the community level,
- Hank Dugie

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN HAS OVER **ONE THOUSAND** REGISTERED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS. TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES + OTHER STUDENT-LED GROUPS, VISIT THE D.O.S WEBSITE AT DEANOFSTUDENTS.UTEXAS.EDU

The lack of cheerleaders and excessive funding doesn't prevent these service groups from molding their community into something greater. Since the College of Liberal Arts emphasizes and enkindles its students' passion for their world, it comes as no surprise that many of the service-based organization leaders are liberal arts students. Passion for service and for the people of the community becomes a driving force that rivals money, fame, and others factors which motivate students. The organization leaders' fervor overflows from their studies and into extracurricular pursuits, thus creating an environment in which helping others is an essential part of a college experience.

STARTING SMALL

"If you want to change the world, you do that at the community level," said Hank Dugie, an economics major and the president of Helping Hornz. His organization is allied with Austin Independent School District and provides premier services to low-income communities and schools in Austin. One of Helping Hornz's primary tasks is offering weekly mentorship for struggling students from poor communities. When asked about the success of his mentorship program, Dugie proudly said, "I feel like that is one way to have a direct impact in someone else's life." When it comes to being positive role models, the members of Helping Hornz are not only organized and dedicated, but also entertainingly creative. "We went to a low-income area and created a haunted house from scratch so that the kids could have a good Halloween," Dugie reminisced before adding, "Not only did [the kids] have a good time, but we also got to scare people, which is always fun." Helping Hornz is only one of many new student-led service organizations that are springing up all over campus and endeavor to impact their community.

BUILDING BLOCKS OF TRADITION

Most organizations, like Helping Hornz, are fairly new; a few, such as Orange Jackets, a women's only service organization, have been around for almost as long as the university itself. Alyssa Davis, a Plan II major and the current Vice President of Membership of Orange Jackets, prides herself for being a leader of an honorary organization that has been serving the university and the local community for ninety years.

"We bring in the most accomplished women and watch them grow and develop their leaderships skills," she beamed. "You can see the impact that Orange Jackets [makes] in all areasoncampus, whetherthatbeliberalarts,engineering,thesciences,orcommunication."

Davis offered one example of the vast numbers of charitable projects done by Orange Jackets and said, "We have a main philanthropy called 'Settlement Home,' which we volunteer at and raise money for." She continued to say that one of her primary goals is to organize bigger and more large-scale projects to serve the community. Davis added, "We [members of Orange Jackets] are united by our passion for service and our passion for the university."



KEEPING IT FUN

The same passion to uplift the community extends beyond the celebrated Orange Jackets and is found in many other smaller student-led organizations that also provide charitable services to the university and to the community beyond. The Liberal Arts Honors Service Organization (LAHSO) led by government major Teddy Garber encourages honors students to volunteer around Austin by accomplishing a variety of tasks, such as donating to food banks, picking up trash at a lake, and running a booth at a Best Buddies event hosted by the university. When asked to elaborate on his organization's services, Garber mentioned transporting bread to homeless shelters and helping Capital Area Food Bank of Texas to inspect donated food cans before they were given away. "We take something that has not been done and fill the need," Garber stated. For him and his fellow members, community service is neither exhausting nor a chore; rather, it is considered one of the most fun things to do. "We can keep it fun," Garber said about service. "We like to keep it interesting and help different parts of society, so we like to help the environment, help people with intellectual disabilities, and help the homeless."

HELP WHERE IT'S NEEDED

LAHSO is renowned for its flexibility and service variability, as is Chatoyant, a smaller student-led service organization whose accomplishments around the community are no less significant and deserving of praise. International relations student Fabiana Latorre is the current vice president of Chatoyant, an organization dedicated to helping as many places in the community as possible—from food banks and local hospitals to homeless shelters and foster care homes.

"I think that having this kind of organization emphasizes the UT motto 'What Starts Here Changes the World,'" Latorre said. "We are here to do great things, but to learn to love doing those things and [to] continue pursuing them after we leave."

After describing Chatoyant's involvement with The Down Syndrome Association of Central Texas to organize a successful event called "Learning Program," Latorre remarked on the "beauty of community service" and said, "It is the most rewarding feeling to spend time with people who need your help and [to receive] hugs and smiles at the end of the day."

TYPES OF STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Educational/Departmental Organizations promote development in a particular academic area.	International/Cultural Organizations foster cultural diversity and offer support to their members and the campus community.	Professional Organizations provide a preview of students' anticipated professional careers.	Service Organizations provide volunteers for on-campus and off-campus projects. Membership requirements generally include a commitment to work for and/or an interest in a particular cause.
Honorary Organizations recognize high-level academic achievement, and generally require a demonstrated interest in a particular career or academic discipline.	Legislative Student Organizations Graduate Student Assembly, Senate of College Councils and Student Government.	Recreational Organizations promote sports-oriented programs and/or recreational activities.	Social Organizations foster social networks among members.
Special Interest Organizations focus on a specific issue or topic.	Political Organizations support political parties, political issues and/or candidates who are seeking political office.	Religious Organizations serve as support for students of a particular religious persuasion or denomination.	Student Governance Organizations address student needs and express student views.

GOING THE DISTANCE

Service organizations, especially those run by full-time students, enliven the community and the world to utilize the resources available to benefit the lives of others. Some organizations are founded upon inspiration, and in turn they inspire others. Texas 4000 is a charity organization that raises money for cancer research by enlisting a group of students to ride from Austin to Anchorage, Alaska each year. Of course, that is not all Texas 4000 does. Caroline Suh, a philosophy major and a member of Texas 4000, offered details on her organization's endeavors.

"While we're riding from Austin to Alaska, we stop by towns and we give a short program about cancer awareness, and then we tell them about our stories and listen to other people's stories," Suh said. "We basically spread hope that cancer is going to be cured. We're going to find the cure to cancer eventually. We just need to keep on working."

GIVING FROM EXPERIENCE

The biggest charity bicycle ride in the world is following in the footsteps of Operation Smile, a worldwide organization founded in 1982 to help fund cleft lip surgeries for children. Brina Bui is a Plan II major and the president of the Longhorn Student Chapter of Operation Smile.

"I feel that every child deserves to smile," Bui remarked before revealing her reasons for joining the organization. "I was born with a facial deformity, and I was really lucky because my parents were able to pay for reconstructive surgery to fix the problem." Bui was inflicted with craniosynostosis as an infant, and through her experiences she discovered her resolute determination to help children around the world who cannot smile and eat properly.

"[Children with cleft lip] are ostracized because they can't smile, and I don't think that's fair. So, this organization is really special to my heart because I just feel that every child should have the best childhood that they can possibly have."

"I think that having this kind of organization emphasizes the UT motto 'What Starts Here Changes the World.'"
- Fabiana Latorre

Texas 4000 was founded by a former student of the University of Texas at Austin in 2004, and has since then expanded into a national non-profit organization partnered with LIVESTRONG and MD Anderson.

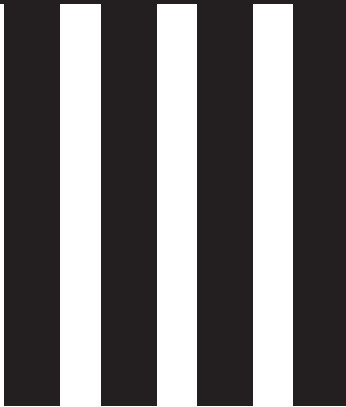
According to Texas Pediatric Surgical Associates, "A cleft is a separation of the two sides of the lip. A cleft palate is an opening in the roof of the mouth in which the two sides of the palate did not join together." Cleft lips and palates occurs in 1 in 700 newborns.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN



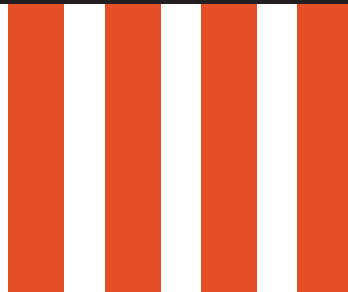
While student-run service and charity organizations are praised for spearheading humanitarian efforts amongst young people, their efforts nevertheless receive minimal attention in a world dominated by the pursuit of success and money. Fortunately, notoriety and attention are not what drive these remarkable young people to serve their community.

"We're young and we want to change the world," Suh asserted after expressing her wish to raise a grand 10,000 dollars for cancer research on behalf of Texas 4000, which she adds is "an incredible organization [that] really reaches



the heart of what college is for."

Indeed, college communities actively support students to discover their fervor for helping others and then to extend that same passion into their future careers. When it comes to passion, liberal arts students are notorious for having no shortage of it. In fact, they are widely mocked for prioritizing passion over practicality. However, what could be less practical than effective writing and communication skills, the ability to adopt



different perspectives, and a well roundedness that ensures flexibility and adaptability in a multitude of situations? Such traits are earned through a liberal arts education and also demanded in a world that needs increasingly stronger leadership—leadership based on passion and benevolence rather than on the destructive quest for self-importance and fame.

"We're young and we want to change the world,"
- Caroline Suh



HELPING HORNZ

Provides Longhorns an opportunity to give back to the community around them. They are a solely service-based organization dedicated to making the world a better place, with members who are role models and passionate servant leaders. Their mission is simply "to create positive change" in our local community and beyond, and our motto is "changing community, one at a time."

LAHSO

LAHSO will provide volunteer opportunities to members of the LAH community and help them grow as individuals through service to the community, leadership and social interactions.

OPERATION SMILE

Operation Smile fundraises, educates and raises awareness for the national Operation Smile organization. They believe that every child deserves to have a beautiful smile.

CHATOYANT

Chatoyant aids the community's less fortunate through selfless acts of community service, as well as host fundraisers for charitable and non-profit organizations.

AMBITION MEETS ALTRUISM?

ORANGE JACKETS

Orange Jackets is one of the oldest student organizations on campus. In 1923, it was founded as a women's honorary organization. We serve as the official hosts of the University. The burnt orange vests worn by members symbolize their tenets of service, leadership and scholarship. Currently, members represent student leaders from across campus.

TEXAS 4000

Texas 4000 is dedicated to fighting cancer by sharing hope, knowledge, and charity. They cultivate the next generation to lead the fight against cancer through our cornerstone event, a more than 4,000-mile bike ride from Austin to Anchorage.

In order to demonstrate excellent leadership, skills learned via a liberal arts education are a sure way to distinguish average leaders from outstanding leaders.

"The most important skill I've learned is writing," Davis of Orange Jackets said. "That has developed my overall communication and the way I am able to act professionally with other people, including [those in] Orange Jackets."

Brina Bui, who had considered a college career dedicated entirely to the sciences, remarked on her decision to major in Plan II and said, "Having an English background allows me to vocalize what I'm feeling in a better manner, and it helps me as a leader because I am able to interact with other students better and understand them more instead of burying myself in a textbook." She jokingly added, "If I wasn't in Plan II, I would probably be reading biology all day."

FORGING AHEAD

The University of Texas at Austin is an oasis of vivacious idealism that gives back to the community without asking for anything in return. After all, the service organization leaders find happiness by bringing smiles to

the faces of strangers that they help and support.

"It's my pride and joy," Dugie said when asked about his accomplishments within Helping Hornz. It is important to remember that the leaders and members of the service clubs on campus are not paid to help others; they are full-time students who attend classes, pay tuition, and study for endless cycles of exams. At the same time, they are a group of hardworking, competent and responsible leaders who believe that the world can improve through grassroots efforts based on compassion and perseverance. They are the leaders needed by their communities and by a world that is constantly hammered by selfishness, greed, and poor leadership. At a campus such as the

University of Texas, charity, service and passion are paramount in comparison to everything else.

Dugie said, "There are the small things that you can do, that you can see directly impact others. It's cool to be able to do something and immediately see that they are having a good time, that they're happy, and just for a moment the problems they're facing go away."

■ BY ELIE WU

ALL PHOTOS BY MADHU SINGH

"We take something that has not been done and fill the need,"
- Teddy Garber

THE ORGANIZATIONS FEATURED IN THIS STORY ARE ONLY A FEW OF THE MANY **STUDENT-LED INITIATIVES** ON CAMPUS. TO CREATE YOUR OWN ORGANIZATION, YOU MUST HAVE AT LEAST THREE CURRENTLY ENROLLED STUDENTS, COMPLETE THE D.O.S APPLICATION MATERIALS, RETURN ALL FORMS TO THE SOC AND SUBMIT A \$10 APPLICATION FEE. AFTER ATTENDING AN ORIENTATION SESSION, YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED BY EMAIL IF YOUR ORGANIZATION IS APPROVED.

VISIT THE D.O.S WEBSITE AT

DEANOFSTUDENTS.UTEXAS.EDU





Gifts are probably the worst, and by far most stress-inducing part of the holiday season. Gone are the days of Santa and Crayola markers fixing all our gift-giving woes. Now we actually have to spend money and buy things and fight those god-have-mercy holiday shopping crowds. Sigh. Considering our student status, is there a way to minimize these feelings of gift incompetency? Can you give the right gift while staying, not only within budget, but within the proper social graces of gift-giving? I say yes. There is hope for you yet, brave holiday soldier.

GIFTING SURVIVAL GUIDE



1
GIFT CARDS?
C'MON, YOU CAN
DO BETTER

2
PRESENTATION
MATTERS! WRAP
LIKE A PRO

3
PROVIDE A GIFT RECEIPT
IN CASE YOU TOTALLY
MISS THE MARK

4
YOU'RE A COLLEGE
STUDENT - SET A LIMIT
+ LOOK FOR SALES

5
THINK OUTSIDE THE (GIFT)
BOX - WASH THEIR CAR OR
COOK A NICE MEAL

6
CLICHE TRUTH BOMBS:
IT REALLY IS THE
THOUGHT THAT COUNTS

PHOTO FROM CREATIVECOMMONS.ORG

THE PERFECT PRESENT

For those who are less than skilled in the art of the distribution of presents, or for anyone who wants to re-establish their skill before the holidays, I offer the humblest of advice: don't give just cash or gift card. Giving someone just cash or a gift card is tacky in the worst kind of way. It tells the receiver "I haven't listened to you enough to know a single thing you like". Although the receiver may say that is what they want, insist upon it, or simply be a horrible person to shop for, never get someone only cash or a gift card. I include the word "only" to emphasize that, in accompaniment with another small, well-thought-out gift, cash or a gift card is perfectly acceptable, especially in the face of mailing problems that come with big packages. But for closer people, in this day of rampant Facebook stalking, you definitely don't have an excuse. Just look at their profile and see what they like. If they hate your gift, they can return it for cash! It's a win-win. Just make sure to include a gift-receipt.

As far as presentation goes, make that gift look like the most expensive thing ever by wrapping it well. Companies like Tiffany & co. have become so famous for the way they wrap things that you can actually buy a Tiffany's wrapped box that will come inside another wrapped box. Confusion aside, wrapping can make a world of difference so, even if you have to pay someone to do it for you, make it look nice.

KEEPING IT REASONABLE

As a gift-giver, it can be tempting to think that the more you spend, the more the person will appreciate it. The worst part of giving gift-cards is the monetary value attached. The gift is almost solely based on how much you spent dollar for dollar. If you are a famous, rich, millionaire (looking at you, Ryan Gosling) you can get gift cards and get away with it, but for those of us who are a tad strapped for cash, nothing is better than sales. When you give a present, common courtesy requires the removal, or at least blacking out of, the price tag, giving you the green light to buy something they would really like, even if it was on sale. No one has to know. The most important part of gift giving is that there was thought that went into the purchase. For the gift receiver that takes monetary value into consideration and judges their presents accordingly, remember places like Goodwill and thrift stores. They often have designer level stuff for cheap. It may smell a little funky, but that's why they invented washing machines. For pickier guys, food is a good back up: cook a good meal or buy his favorite hard-to-find snack. If you are really stumped, and need a quick cheap gift, give the person coupons. These are wonderful in their variety. Did your friend just give birth? Offer her a babysitting coupon—one free night that she can sleep while you watch the baby. What about your mom? Maybe a coupon to make dinner or get the car washed will solve your problems. Be creative. Coupons show that not only are you attentive to the lives of the people you give them to, but that you also care enough to fix any problems in those lives, at least to the point of washing the dishes or watching a friend's baby.

The holidays are a complicated time of year. Winter break is our only real vacation of the year, considering the summer is usually occupied by work, internships, and/or school. Don't let the pressures of gift giving muddle your holiday experience. Spend time with friends and family, and worry about gifts a little less. Isn't that what the holidays are for anyways? And worse comes to worse, you can always make them a nice card with your Crayola markers. ■ BY PATTY SANGER

A NATION DIVIDED

Bipartisanship has always been a characteristic of our democracy, but the “Great Experiment” of America is showing signs of far more polarization than usual, especially considering the hauntingly antebellum petitions to secede, and the reactionary business cuts brought on by ‘Obamacare’ that have emerged post election. Interestingly, the issues debated between the Republican and Democratic Parties aren’t entirely opposite; there are many similarities between stances on economic growth and foreign policy. However, the social issues within these and other political hot topics are the possible catalyst pushing polarization.

“We definitely see a lot more conflict with social issues,” says Steven Salazar, a junior studying advertising, “after watching the campaign for so long, I saw that a lot of people were more willing to support a candidate based on their stance on social issues. When the candidates talked about the economy, nobody seemed to care as much. Everyone knew both parties were going to focus on improving the economy, but it was how they were going to do it that made the difference, and that also had to do with social aspects, like how Obama would rather tax the wealthy, but Romney thought it would be bad because it would hurt businesses. Both parties are most separated by their opposing beliefs on social issues and that’s why it’s so polarized, because it’s definitely unanimous that the economy must improve.”

Following Obama’s re-election and success with

the Electoral College and popular vote, it’s apparent that the majority of America supports a Democratic agenda over a Republican. Within the past four years, it’s equally evident that polarization’s potency is more widespread. If one looks at Congress’s inability to compromise, the debt ceiling debate, and controversy over healthcare reform, it’s very clear that our nation is split between Red and Blue. But the Democratic win reveals more than just a majority number, it reveals [faults in its opposing party, the Republicans.]

“The reason for polarization is the amount of change happening right now,” says Noelle Matthews, a sophomore government major, “I think the Republican Party is an older party and it isn’t catering to the wants of the people especially because of increasing minority influence, which tends to follow the Democratic Party. But I don’t really believe it’s because the Republicans are wrong when it comes to their fiscal beliefs, it’s their social stances like gay marriage, women’s rights, and immigration that are getting outdated and not relatable. They’ll never win an election until they get with the here and now.”

During History 315L – the United States since 1865, guest speaker Newt Gingrich was asked if the Republican Party needed to change in order to gather the popular vote which it has only received once in the last twenty years. Former Speaker Gingrich gave this response:

“I don’t know if we need to change our ideology in a broader sense, but there’s a huge opportunity for conservatism in the modern world. I think one of the problems with socialism is that they run out of other people’s money, which is true. There’s a potential for conservatism that says ‘here’s what it takes to be prosperous, here’s what it takes for a better government’ which I think is still useful. But coming to grips with the reality of your market is essential. Imagine you hired a basketball coach who only believed in playing one half of the court. He always wants to tell you the score of one half of the court. But he doesn’t want to talk about the other half. You don’t do that by design. We’re in a situation where the Republican Party is not prepared to be in modern social communication. If you’re not prepared to be in the media people watch, you won’t win.”

Regardless of bipartisanship, our political spectrum is always evolving as a result of an ever changing population. What people believe is constantly transforming, and our democratic form of government, one based on the people, must always adjust to these turns. Perhaps the polarizing conflict within our government reflects a greater change taking place within our nation.

“America’s starting to get more tolerant and diverse than it’s ever been and that’s making a change in our cultures and beliefs which our political parties have to adapt to,” says Scott Rumsey a senior studying Computer Science, “I think these changes are creating tension in our government because it’s about the social aspects, the ‘yes’ or ‘no’ sort of debates, that polarize us and make each party dislike the other. It’s that difference in belief that makes our political atmosphere so polarized.”

The tensions within our political spectrum illustrate more than simply conflict; they are proof that the great experiment of the 18th century is still working and as alive as ever. It’s the core of democracy at work – a constant struggle to appease and adapt to the will of the people. Even though we debate and differ when it comes to political issues, the polarization we feel is the passion within both political parties’ ideologies. And as always, it’s up to the people to decide which to put in place. But at the end of the day, the best remedy to soothe the redness and relieve the blues is a democracy based in necessary compromise.

■ HARRISON DROMGOOLE

“America’s starting to get more tolerant and diverse than it’s ever been and that’s making a change in our cultures and beliefs which our political parties have to adapt to,”
– Scott Rumsey

A HISTORIC ELECTION

In case you’ve been living under a rock, here’s what else happened on November 6, 2012

The Senate has reached 20 women senators, a record number

Maryland and Maine passed same-sex marriage

Puerto Rico voted to become a state if passed by Congress

Washington and Colorado legalized the recreational use of marijuana

Massachusetts legalized the use of medical marijuana

LEGISLATION RECAP

SR. 1203

In support of a new honor code for The University of Texas at Austin

PASSED

SR. 1205

In support of standardized degree plan formats

PASSED

SR. 1206

In support of including major tracks on transcriptions

PASSED

SR. 1207

In support of a simplified dual degree graduation procedure

PASSED

SR. 1208

In support of the creation of thematic core curriculum streams

PASSED

CAMPUS UPDATES

COLA BUILDING



AFTER SEVERAL YEARS OF PLANNING + CONSTRUCTION, THE NEW LIBERAL ARTS BUILDING WILL BE OPEN **SPRING 2013**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SPRING SEMESTER BEGINS
**JANUARY
FOURTEENTH**

DEC 12 - 18
FALL SEMESTER FINAL
EXAMINATIONS

DEC 22
OFFICIAL GRADUATION DATE

DEC 19 - JAN 13
WINTER BREAK

LIBERAL ARTS COUNCIL CORNER

THINKING OF JOINING LIBERAL ARTS COUNCIL?

Prospective Member,

Liberal Arts Council serves as the official student organization that represents the interests of students in the College of Liberal Arts. Our organization acts as a liaison between students and college administration, faculty, staff, academic departments, and the professional world. Through various events and initiatives, the council works to build a close-knit community for College of Liberal Arts students. As a member of the Senate of College Councils, our academic legislative student organization, Liberal Arts Council writes and votes on legislation to improve the academic experience at UT. As such,

our members are selected for their dedication to the college, desire to improve the student experience, and enthusiasm for our university.

Liberal Arts Council provides an opportunity to represent student opinion along side other devoted student leaders. As a council, we meet weekly to discuss our initiatives and vote on academic legislation on Tuesdays (6-7:30pm). During their first semester, new members are required to attend an additional weekly meeting on Sundays (7-8pm) to develop and implement a new member project. Each member of LAC is apart of a committee within council and participates in council-wide events.

LIBERAL ARTS COUNCIL CORNER

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

This semester, Liberal Arts Council had a heavy emphasis on promoting study abroad opportunities within the College of Liberal Arts.

With that, every semester, LAC has a project planned, conducted and executed by our newly inducted members. This semester, LAC's Fall 2012 New Member Class hosted the event 'Oh the Places You'll Go' showcasing the various foreign language opportunities, cultural classes and study abroad experiences within the College.

Our Student Affairs committee also hosted a panel ("Studying Abroad: What I Wish I Knew") encompassed of students who had studied all over the world. The purpose of the panel was to provide insight on what you should know before you head abroad. Moreover, Liberal Arts Council's Academic Affairs committee

sponsored our re-occurring 'Study Abroad Scholarship.' The committee hand-picked the scholarship recipients and allotted thousands of dollars to students who are studying abroad in the upcoming semesters.

However, separate from promoting study abroad, LAC also hosted a 'meet and greet' event for the Liberal Arts students with UT's new Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Gage Paine, we raised money for UNICEF, and aided the College in UT's Parent's Weekend and LACS's Career Fair.

Liberal Arts Council is looking forward to next semester where we will be heavily promoting the new building and its resources and focused on advertising the numerous research opportunities in the College.

"LAC is looking forward to next semester where we will be heavily promoting the new building and its resources and focused on advertising the numerous research opportunities in the College."

-MORGAN CARIDI

LIBERAL ARTS COUNCIL HISTORY

ANALECTA LITERARY JOURNAL



Analecta was founded in the fall of 1974 by a group of UT students on the College Council for Humanities.

Headed by Thomas Belinoski, the staff published the first volume of Analecta in the spring of 1975. The staff hoped to create a journal that would

be around for years to come instead of going out of print after a few issues, as most small-press literary magazines do.

Analecta was originally created as a non-commercial publication, meaning that it does not sell ad space within the journal to raise funds. To this day, no ads have ever been printed in the journal.

Analecta has been published under multiple student government councils at UT, starting with the College Council for Humanities. The journal was later moved to the Liberal Arts Council, before finally being named an agency of the Senate of College Councils.

THE OUTLET

CAMPUS LIFE, POP CULTURE, MINUTIAE.
MUNDANE OR INSPIRING, THE LIBERATOR SHARES ITS
THOUGHTS ON... WELL... EVERYTHING.

SNIPPETS FROM THE LIBERATOR BLOG

HEY AGGIES, YOU'RE NOT BANKSY

To the Person/People from Aggieland Who Tried to Pull A Banksy and Failed (Epicly, of Course)
The A&M graffiti seen all over campus was quite a shocking experience. It was like time stopped and all of this anger and confusion just came pouring out of me. Below is a letter I would write to the person that decided to graffiti A&M jargon all over campus.

Dear Banksy-wannabe/wannabees from Aggieland,

You are not Banksy. It may seem like it because you ran away into the dark of the night but what you did was pathetic. It wasn't artistic; it didn't showcase some cynical view of society; it was just plain immature. What you did was just over the top not okay, AT ALL. At least Banksy has the decency to not ruin famous monuments.

I agree, the UT and A&M rivalry was great, but you have to move past that. In the end, everything was all just for the purpose of fun and games. We didn't think our rivalry was so serious that you'd attack our home front. The fact that you spray-painted A&M on our towers and buildings, the architecture that has lasted for decades, is only making your school look like the lesser university here.

I just don't get it. What were you thinking? Was it out of jealousy? Was it out of plain old ignorance? What was it? I just can't fathom your irrational actions. It's time to grow up and realize that the world doesn't revolve around an already ended rivalry or any rivalry for that matter. There are bigger and better things out there and you're just way too stuck in the past.

So to the point that you come to our home front and vandalize our university's property, it's just not funny anymore. You just took it way too far. Writing your school's name on our landmarks doesn't make you better than us.

You see, the thing about UT is we don't need to scribble meaningless words on other people's property to get attention. We get our attention by being a student body that has an incredible work ethic and strives for greatness. We're not living our days in memory of a rivalry so just move on because we already have. At the end of the day, we still have respect for A&M and you should have the same respect for us. R-E-S-P-E-C-T. Find out what it means to UT.

The eyes of Texas are seriously upon you and we'll also be watching our buildings more closely than ever before, Sincerely (have to be sincere to be the bigger person here),

FARAH MITHANI

BODY POLITICS



*Envision a pristine, European forest adorned with foliage only an undisturbed, millennium-old landscape could produce. Now imagine a zealous barbarian gambling such a beauty, only to painfully lose it all and turn it into a wasteland. **That's the story of my leg hair.***

Crazy Eights earns its adjective once you add a dose of alcohol, an abundance of leg hair, and decide to make it a betting game. I wagered my leg hair and lost. I kept my honor, paid my dues, and immediately began to bulldoze the Amazon. There was a problem, though - I'd shaved areas of my body before, but never my legs.

UNCHARTED WATERS

I am not a shapely man, but my legs proved a little too curvaceous for my skills at drunken razor wielding. There was this weird, uneven bone called a femur that got in my way, so I decided to shave the entire thing as if it was a smooth level surface. I ended up creating what looked like bloody tire tracks on a road.. It took me thirty minutes to do a single leg - not even a whole leg, just the knee down. And along with each hair and millimeter of blood spiraling down the drain, there went my dignity.

After I shaved my first leg, I quit in a blood-caked mess. When I returned the next morning to finish the job, it took me three hours of razor mowing to get the final product: two unevenly trimmed, cut up, bumpy stilts for legs. My legs became Jekyll and Hyde. One was a diseased abomination with scrapes and gashes, the other sketchy and unnatural with random hairs at differing lengths. Everything was colder than usual. My legs were slippery in my sheets, but prickly in my pants. Not to mention I'm as white as the shaving

cream that made me this way. I missed wearing shorts and actually decided to spread lotion on my legs to soothe the burn and horrific itching.

I am a bigot, but not as big of a bigot as I was before my brazen blunder. I'm basically an enlightened male now. In my past, I'd hear social activists whine about society's war against feminine hair, and if I was to encounter a furry female in the urban wilderness, I'd dismiss her as either a) hippie, or b) Chewbacca. But after actually shaving my legs, experiencing the discomfort, and realizing how often a woman would have to do this, I realize the ritual practice is a literal pain. Like a rogue scientist destroying their flourishing monsters, a woman must incinerate her natural experiment with Nair if it risks being exposed. There was something unnatural about shaving myself that I didn't like, excluding the fact that I looked like a hideous 12-year-old.

YOU DO THIS EVERY DAY?!

I risk sounding like a pseudo-intellectual who has the hardship of criticizing their so-oppressive first world society, but being a woman is tough work. Granted, being a white, Anglo-Saxon, protestant male is hard - but to be expected to shave, look pretty all the time, make babies, and get paid less? That's a hairy situation. My sympathies to all the brave and noble double X chromosomes of the world - you have my respect, I raise my sword to you.

Everywhere I walk, Shania Twain's "Man! I Feel like a Woman" plays in the background. Next in the queue is Aerosmith's "Dude Looks like a Lady." Ironically, I wear jeans to cover up my semi-shaven legs, while a girl may wear them to cover up her semi-hairy legs. We both do it for the same reason - because we don't consider the way we look to be socially acceptable.

TO EACH HIS (OR HER) OWN

I'm trying to think of an inspiring progressive statement to say, but I can't. Plus, I'd risk sounding like a try-hard Tumblr philosopher who got his phd from Disney. I'm not about to claim I know what it's like to be the opposite sex simply because I put a razor to some hair. Nor am I about to agree with anyone's absolute disgust for the way our society works in the year 2012. But I do understand how it feels to look and act a certain way simply because it's what everyone expects. I suppose you can put people into two groups - those who find comfort in conforming to the norm, and those who feel gratification from sticking to their beliefs and doing what they see fit. They're two sides of the same razor, it's just a matter of which side you want to trim your appearance with.

But please, don't shave your legs unless you want to. It sucks. ■ **THE SLACKER**

WHO IS **THE SLACKER** AND WHY DID HE SHAVE HIS LEGS?

E	G	K	N	E	X	N	K	N	R
E	Q	Q	A	O	H	S	C	O	G
V	X	T	T	S	B	N	Z	N	M
B	H	P	U	I	L	A	I	H	Z
N	T	G	R	R	R	M	A	F	P
I	O	F	A	R	M	I	T	R	A
C	O	P	L	I	R	U	U	Q	Q
K	M	P	R	T	M	K	M	M	G
S	S	T	L	A	D	X	S	A	N
U	Z	B	C	T	A	F	I	D	I
C	W	W	O	I	J	W	N	H	V
V	S	T	G	O	E	I	I	S	A
A	C	E	N	N	J	B	M	U	H
E	C	I	O	H	C	L	E	D	S
E	H	R	K	S	F	Q	F	S	M

CHOICE
FEMINISM
HAIR
IRRITATION

NATURAL
NICKS
RAZOR
SHAVING

SMOOTH
SUDS
TRIMMING



PROFESSOR SPOTLIGHT

DR. JULIE HARDWICK

TEACHES WITCHES,
WORKERS + WIVES

■ PHOTO BY MADHU SINGH

Now that the election is over, we can all take a breather, sit back, relax, and go back to our every day lives. No more political ads and solicitations for votes, just our mundane routines. Perhaps, however, our every day lives aren't as mundane as we might think; at least not to Professor Julie Hardwick.

"When I was an undergraduate, the history of every day life, social history, was at its peak," Dr. Hardwick notes, "my subsequent interests, those questions about law and every day life were undercurrents that developed."

Today, Dr. Hardwick is a professor in the department of History and the Center for European Studies, as well as the director of the Institute for Historical Studies. She specializes in early modern European social and cultural history, legal history, and gender and family history.

"Historians talk a lot about change," says Dr. Hardwick, however, "looking at the history of the family makes you very aware of continuity in the persistence of these problems." For example, there was a lot of domestic violence in early modern Europe and there's a lot of domestic violence now.

Dr. Hardwick earned her Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University and started teach in 1991 before coming to UT in 2001. Combining her lifelong study of social history and interests in legal and family history, Dr. Hardwick's understanding of the history of the family and every

day life, both socially and legally, is vast. She currently teaches several courses at UT, among them Workers, Witches, and Wives, the name of which she mentions is "a marketing thing," to hook people into looking at gender and family as well as early modern Europe. Dr. Hardwick's goal with the class is "to think about the ways in which working families not only experienced always enormous changes, [...] but also about how their choices were essential to creating those really monumental transformations" associated with the shift to early modern history.

The class also features discussion of women and their role in society, a theme we see recurring in today's society with the political focus on women and the so-called War on Women. While Dr. Hardwick has taught some version of this class for years and has "seen a lot of student interest that whole time."

Talking specifically about the War on Women, Dr. Hardwick offers some interesting insight. "There was certainly a lot of hostile rhetoric towards women in early modern Europe," Dr. Hardwick states. What she finds useful for students today in understanding the War on Women are family life continuities as well as a woman's desire to control her fertility, the central point she made.

"Women are going to want to control their fertility," Dr. Hardwick states, "no matter what is going on, that is actually

very important for women." She notes that she thinks it's important for men, too, but we have fewer records of them articulating this viewpoint. And this is a reality today.

"You can't just pretend that isn't going to happen," says Dr. Hardwick, "it's better to just accept that as a reality [and decide] how to manage that desire." In early modern Europe, where women had very few means of doing so, controlling their fertility was still very important to them and the past couple years have shown us that it still is and it's something they are willing to fight for. Dr. Hardwick mentions the rhetoric pushing back against access to contraception through insurance is two-fold. One side is a religious argument and the other is a lifestyle choice argument. However, "look[ing] back at early modern Europe, you can see it's really not a lifestyle choice," she says.

So what is the future of women and the family in our society today? "Things have changed for the better," states Dr. Hardwick. She says we've come a long way and that while issues such as domestic violence and equal pay gaps persist, our values regarding these issues have changed. "Legally, we have zero tolerance for family violence today," she says, and "we have a really different value system and I think that's very very important." While the continuities Dr. Hardwick focuses on exist, today we have different kinds of responses and remedies for these challenges,

something she says "is a more optimistic way of thinking about it."

How do students benefit from all this? First, beware. Students too often expect a direct lesson from history and "that lesson is more nuanced and contexted," says Dr. Hardwick. Second, she says the one thing students can take away is that "these challenges that families have faced are really long-standing and there's not going to be any kind of quick-fix," despite what politicians today are offering. Additionally, we notice that parents and children alike were "immensely resourceful about trying to meet these challenges and we can still see that resourcefulness persist today." The most wonderful thing for Dr. Hardwick, as a professor, is that students are constantly surprised by things we've taken for granted and that there is an "energizing consequence of that interaction" that she likes very much.

Dr. Hardwick's dedication to educating students is apparent and rightfully evidenced by her success as a professor here at UT. She has won the Rapoport-King Award for thesis advising multiple times and was recently received a Joe and Bettie Branson Ward Excellence Award nomination. However, she says the awards she loves most are thank you cards from students. "That's more validating than any kind of institutional award you can get," says Dr. Hardwick humbly.

■ DANA HENNING

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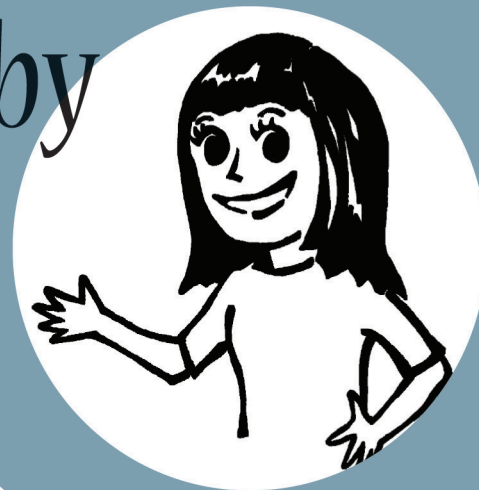


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